

House Study Bill 219 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON WHEELER)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to education, including modifying provisions
2 related to school district library programs and the
3 educational program provided to students enrolled in
4 school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, and charter
5 schools.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.11, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code
2 2023, is amended to read as follows:

3 The state board shall adopt rules under [chapter 17A](#) and
4 a procedure for accrediting all public and nonpublic schools
5 in Iowa offering instruction at any or all levels from the
6 prekindergarten level through grade twelve. The rules of
7 the state board shall require that ~~a~~ an age-appropriate,
8 multicultural, and gender-fair approach is used by schools and
9 school districts. The educational program shall be taught from
10 ~~a~~ an age-appropriate, multicultural, and gender-fair approach.
11 Global perspectives shall be incorporated into all levels of
12 the educational program. The rules adopted by the state board
13 pursuant to [section 256.17, Code Supplement 1987](#), to establish
14 new standards shall satisfy the requirements of [this section](#) to
15 adopt rules to implement the educational program contained in
16 this section. The educational program shall be as follows:

17 Sec. 2. Section 256.11, subsections 4 and 9, Code 2023, are
18 amended to read as follows:

19 4. The following shall be taught in grades seven and
20 eight: English-language arts; social studies; mathematics;
21 science; health; age-appropriate and research-based human
22 growth and development; career exploration and development;
23 physical education; music; and visual art. Computer science
24 instruction incorporating the standards established under
25 section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph "a", subparagraph (4),
26 shall be offered in at least one grade level commencing with
27 the school year beginning July 1, 2023. Career exploration
28 and development shall be designed so that students are
29 appropriately prepared to create an individual career
30 and academic plan pursuant to [section 279.61](#), incorporate
31 foundational career and technical education concepts aligned
32 with the six career and technical education service areas
33 as defined in [subsection 5](#), paragraph "h", and incorporate
34 relevant twenty-first century skills. The health curriculum
35 shall include age-appropriate and research-based information

1 regarding the characteristics of sexually transmitted diseases,
2 including HPV and the availability of a vaccine to prevent
3 HPV, and acquired immune deficiency syndrome. The state board
4 as part of accreditation standards shall adopt curriculum
5 definitions for implementing the program in grades seven
6 and eight. However, *this subsection* shall not apply to the
7 teaching of career exploration and development in nonpublic
8 schools. ~~For purposes of *this section*, "*age-appropriate*",~~
9 ~~"*HPV*", and "*research-based*" mean the same as defined in section~~
10 ~~279.50.~~

11 9. *a.* Beginning July 1, 2006, each school district shall
12 have a qualified teacher librarian who shall be licensed by
13 the board of educational examiners under *chapter 272*. *Each*
14 *school district shall establish a kindergarten through grade*
15 *twelve library program that is consistent with the educational*
16 *standards established in this section, contains only*
17 *age-appropriate materials, and supports the student achievement*
18 *goals of the total school curriculum. The qualified teacher*
19 *librarian, working with students, teachers, support staff, and*
20 *administrators, shall direct the library program and provide*
21 *services and instruction in support of the curricular goals of*
22 *each attendance center. The qualified teacher librarian shall*
23 *be a member of the attendance center instructional team with*
24 *special expertise in identifying resources and technologies to*
25 *support teaching and learning. The qualified teacher librarian*
26 *and classroom teachers shall collaborate to develop, teach, and*
27 *evaluate attendance center curricular goals with an emphasis*
28 *on all of the following:*

29 *(1) Promoting inquiry and critical thinking.*

30 *(2) Providing information literacy learning experiences to*
31 *help students access, evaluate, use, create, and communicate*
32 *information.*

33 *(3) Enhancing learning and teaching through technology.*

34 *(4) Promoting literacy through reader guidance and*
35 *activities that develop capable and independent readers.*

1 b. The library programs established pursuant to paragraph
2 "a" shall be regularly reviewed and revised and shall be
3 designed to meet all of the following goals:
4 (1) To provide for methods to improve library collections to
5 meet student and staff needs.
6 (2) To make connections with parents and the community.
7 (3) To support the school district's school improvement
8 plan.
9 (4) To provide access to or support for professional
10 development for the qualified teacher librarian.
11 (5) To provide current technology and electronic resources
12 to ensure that students become skillful and discriminating
13 users of information.
14 (6) To include a current and diverse collection of fiction
15 and nonfiction materials in a variety of formats to support
16 student and curricular needs.
17 (7) To include a plan for annually updating and replacing
18 library materials, supports, and equipment.
19 c. The board of directors of each school district shall
20 adopt policies to address selection and reconsideration of
21 school library materials, confidentiality of student library
22 records, and legal and ethical use of information resources,
23 including plagiarism and intellectual property rights.
24 d. The state board shall establish in rule a definition
25 of and standards for an articulated sequential kindergarten
26 through grade twelve media program.
27 e. A school district that entered into a contract with an
28 individual for employment as a media specialist or librarian
29 prior to June 1, 2006, shall be considered to be in compliance
30 with [this subsection](#) until June 30, 2011, if the individual
31 is making annual progress toward meeting the requirements
32 for a teacher librarian endorsement issued by the board of
33 educational examiners under [chapter 272](#). A school district
34 that entered into a contract with an individual for employment
35 as a media specialist or librarian who holds at least a

1 master's degree in library and information studies shall be
2 considered to be in compliance with [this subsection](#) until the
3 individual leaves the employ of the school district.

4 Sec. 3. Section 256.11, Code 2023, is amended by adding the
5 following new subsection:

6 NEW SUBSECTION. 19. For purposes of this section:

7 *a. (1) "Age-appropriate" means topics, messages, and*
8 *teaching methods suitable to particular ages or age groups*
9 *of children and adolescents, based on developing cognitive,*
10 *emotional, and behavioral capacity typical for the age or age*
11 *group. "Age-appropriate" does not include any material with*
12 *descriptions or visual depictions of a sex act as defined in*
13 *section 702.17 or section 728.1.*

14 *(2) Notwithstanding subparagraph (1), for purposes of the*
15 *human growth and development curriculum, "age-appropriate" means*
16 *the same as defined in section 279.50.*

17 *b. "HPV" means the same as defined in section 279.50.*

18 *c. "Research-based" means the same as defined in section*
19 *279.50.*

20 EXPLANATION

21 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
22 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

23 This bill relates to education, including modifying
24 provisions related to school district library programs and the
25 educational program provided to students enrolled in school
26 districts, accredited nonpublic schools, and charter schools.

27 Code section 256.11 (educational standards) requires that
28 the educational program adopted by the state board of education
29 for school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, and
30 charter schools be taught from a multicultural and gender-fair
31 approach. The bill provides that the educational program shall
32 also be taught from an age-appropriate approach. The bill
33 defines "age-appropriate" in this context as topics, messages,
34 and teaching methods suitable to particular ages or age groups
35 of children and adolescents, based on developing cognitive,

1 emotional, and behavioral capacity typical for the age or age
2 group. Additionally, the bill provides that "age-appropriate"
3 does not include any material with descriptions or visual
4 depictions of a sex act. The bill does not affect the
5 definition of "age-appropriate" in the context of the human
6 growth and development curriculum.

7 The bill requires each school district to establish
8 a kindergarten through grade 12 library program that
9 is consistent with Code section 256.11, contains only
10 age-appropriate materials, and supports the student achievement
11 goals of the total school curriculum. The bill requires a
12 qualified teacher librarian to direct the library program and
13 provide services in support of the curricular goals of each
14 attendance center. The qualified teacher librarian shall be a
15 member of the attendance center instructional team with special
16 expertise in identifying resources and technologies to support
17 teaching and learning. The bill establishes that the qualified
18 teacher librarian and classroom teachers are to collaborate
19 to develop, teach, and evaluate attendance center curricular
20 goals, with an emphasis on certain specified goals.

21 The bill requires library programs to be regularly reviewed
22 and revised and to be designed to provide for methods to
23 improve library collections to meet student and staff needs,
24 make connections with parents and the community, support the
25 school district's school improvement plan, provide support for
26 professional development for the qualified teacher librarian,
27 provide current electronic resources to ensure that students
28 become skillful and discriminating users of information,
29 include a current and diverse collection of materials in a
30 variety of formats to support student and curricular needs,
31 and include a plan for annually updating and replacing library
32 materials, supports, and equipment. The bill also requires the
33 board of directors of each school district to adopt policies
34 to address selection and reconsideration of school library
35 materials, confidentiality of student library records, and

H.F. _____

1 legal and ethical use of information resources.